

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 24th December 1904.

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URIA PAPERS.

Nil.

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Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th December has the following:—

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 15th, 1904.

The Sikhs in Manchuria. A number of Sikhs, owing to their reputation for fidelity and martial prowess, were invited into Manchuria some years ago by the new Russian Government of that province to assist in keeping the local peace. In spite of their general disinclination to leave home for the strange surroundings of a new country, these Sikhs have since contentedly settled down and made Manchuria their home, as they find that here they get higher pay and that their white fellow-subjects make no attempt to claim any superiority or predominance over them. The first batch of immigrant Sikhs has since been followed by other bands. The Sikhs are the principal martial race in India, and the fact that they are accepting Russian sovereignty in numbers has aroused feelings of alarm among Englishmen. Let the British Government pause and ponder over the reasons for this state of things—why the Sikhs should abandon their own homes and the prospects of service in their own country for service in distant foreign lands, under a new Sovereign. We have seen many times that but for the timely assistance of the Sikhs, the English would have been sorely pressed, but still the English cannot get over their hatred for coloured people. However brave a Sikh may be, he has no chance of his merits being properly rewarded under the English system. Englishmen will never acknowledge the Sikhs as their equals or superiors. It is because the Sikhs cannot tolerate this insult that they have preferred to leave home and seek the protection of Russia. We do not wish to see the Sikhs going away and becoming the subjects of Russia. Let Government provide a field for their talents in their own homes, and thereby prevent the necessity of their doing so.

2. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th December writes:—

SANJIVANI,

The defence of India. Lord Curzon's recent speech in reply to the address of welcome from the Bombay Corporation indicates the probability of an early addition to the military forces of India. But is such an addition necessary? And if necessary, who is the proper party to be saddled with the necessary costs? Will it be just to throw the cost on the shoulders of the poverty-stricken people of India?

It is the sending of the Missions to Tibet, Persia and Kabul which has irritated Germany and Russia. If these Missions had not been despatched, there would have been no thought of the invasion of India at the present moment. It is Lord Curzon's foreign policy which is bringing danger nearer to India. We of course have no authority to compel him to change that policy. The Liberal party in England is now without any powerful leader, so from that quarter also no effectual protest may be expected. The present policy is therefore likely to continue, and to bring about wars in its train. But we do not believe in the probability of any war between India and Russia at the present moment. For, Russia just now is in a crippled condition, her navy almost entirely gone, and her army seriously reduced. Under such circumstances it is not at all likely that Russia will court destruction by a war with England now. The rumour is that Germany is likely to come to the aid of Russia.

Suppose a war does break out under such circumstances. Is that any reason why the English should lose heart? The English are foreigners, and have not always behaved with due consideration and justice towards India. Naturally, therefore, they apprehend that the loyalty of the people of India will not stand the stress of a war. But we can claim to be well acquainted with the sentiments of our own countrymen. And we know that though the people of India may dislike the arrogance of the English, they love the British Government all the same. In defence of that Government they are prepared even to lay down their lives on the field. Government cannot bring itself to believe in this loyalty, and hence its proposals for an increase to the forces. It is even appealing in distress to the colonies to come to its aid in bearing the burden of the defence of India.

But India is not a burden on the British Empire. On the contrary, it is India which is bearing the burden of the British Empire. Let the Government do justice to the people of India and make the country really a part

of the Empire. That will give the British Empire an unequalled position in the world. Germany or Russia would then cease to have any terrors for her.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 16th, 1904.

3. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th December observes that Government proposes to advance as far as Afghanistan in order to counteract Russian aggression in Central Asia. But everything must depend upon the course which the Amir will take. If the friendly relations with the Amir remain as before, there can be no cause of anxiety from the extension of railways by Russia in Central Asia, and it is not necessary to increase the military expenditure to foil Russian designs upon India. But nobody can say what policy Lord Curzon may adopt.

4. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December says that Russia's proposed invasion of India is gradually assuming its real shape. Lord Kitchener, seeing Russia's preparations in that direction, is actively engaged in increasing the fighting strength of the Indian army.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

5. The same paper is alarmed at the concentration of the Russian and Afghan armies at the Russo-Afghan frontier at a time when the British Mission is at Kabul, and considers matters to be serious.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

6. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 17th December says that there is no likelihood of any European Powers listening to Prince George's appeal to help in the annexation of Crete to Greece. It is for Prince George to say what right any European Power has to interfere with Crete.

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

7. Referring to the hostile attitude taken up by the Russian press against the British Mission to Persia, the same paper says that every progressive step of England is looked upon by the Russian press as a hostile movement against Russia. The Mission will do nothing more than establish England's commercial interests on a sound basis in Southern Persia—a work which the Indian Chambers of Commerce ought to have done long ago. The Commission has not any political object at all in view.

AL PUNCH.

8. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th December has the following:—

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

Persian politics. The British Government has reappointed Lord Curzon to be the Viceroy of India for carrying out the following objects:—

- (1) To finally settle the Tibetan question.
- (2) To settle the Afghanistan question.
- (3) To deal with the Persian Gulf question.

Now that Russia is hopelessly involved in the Far East, it is a golden opportunity for the English to settle these questions to their entire satisfaction. But England ought to bear in mind that if some emergency compels the Asiatic rulers to help Russia, England will meet with the greatest obstacles in the way of her success. Now that all Asiatic rulers, specially Persia, have come to understand their own position, any encroachment upon their rights and privileges by either of the two rival Powers will not be such an easy affair. Had England not put obstacles in the way of Persia's conquering Herat, and had she not deprived that country of her supremacy over Afghanistan, Afghan affairs would not have cost England such a heavy loss in men and money, and Russia would not have been able to establish her influence in Central Asia. At present Persia seems to be favourably disposed towards England, but any aggressive policy on the part of the latter towards the former country is sure to result in her forfeiting the sympathy which Persia feels for her.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

9. Referring to the British mail incident at Bushire in Persia, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December observes that such an act is a blow to British prestige in the Persian Gulf. As this incident has happened at a time when the Persian agent is in the Court of Russia and when Lord Curzon, who is so well versed in Persian affair, has already come to India, one must anxiously await the issue.

The Bushire mail incident.

10. A correspondent of the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th December from Bushire bewails the loss in exchange which Persia has to suffer in her dealings with the merchants of Hindustan, and fears that Persian trade is about to be ruined, for fifteen years ago the value of a hundred quiráns (Persian coin) was Rs. 40, but it has now come down to Rs. 24 and given rise to the manufacture of counterfeit Persian coins at Karachi.

Depreciation of the Persian coinage.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

11. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 13th December, referring to the question of the reform of the panchayet system, expresses the opinion that the present low calibre of the holders of the office of panchayet is largely due to faulty methods of appointment. Under the law, the District Magistrate himself is supposed to make the appointments. But what happens in practice is, that he is personally utterly ignorant of the claims and character of the various leading men of the villages. So he has to take on trust any name that might be put up and supported by his irresponsible subordinates. Various underhand means are said to be used by unscrupulous men to get themselves nominated on such occasions. It is suggested that to secure a class of respectable and honest men, resort must be had to a system of election by the tax-payers in each village.

The reform of the panchayet system.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 13th, 1904.

12. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 13th December takes exception to the suggestion which has been made in connection with the proposed reform of the panchayet system, to arm the panchayets with magisterial powers in future. It is remarked that such an increase of the powers of the panchayets will do more harm than good to the country. The class of men whom Government proposes to appoint as panchayets in future are required to be "well-educated" and "truly honest." It is pointed out that such men will not easily be available in the mufassal. There may be no dearth of honest men, but the number of educated men in a village is small indeed. The reason is that the search for bread almost always drives educated men from their ancestral villages to seek service elsewhere. Further, even if a few such educated men were found residing in the villages, they would not consent to serve as panchayets. For they would be saddled with responsibilities for which they would get no pay. A reason why no independent-minded and respectable man now cares to accept the office of panchayet may be found in the existence on the Statute-book of many laws which have been framed in ignorance of the real conditions of the country. For people are naturally averse to act as agents in carrying out laws of which they disapprove.

The reform of the panchayet system.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

The correspondent further suggests the danger of all this talk of reforming the panchayet system being merely the precursor of additional taxation. It is proposed under the new system to make the panchayets judicial officers. They will therefore require a staff of clerks, office furniture, etc. Where will the cost of all these come from but from the long-suffering public? Previous to the Mutiny, during the *régime* of the East India Company, there was practically no tax to speak of. What a contrast to the present, when there are the income tax, the license tax, the municipal taxes, the chaukidari tax, not to mention the numerous harassing cesses. The addition of any fresh tax would really prove almost the last straw on the camel's back. It may be admitted that the object of Government in suggesting these changes is all that is good, but all the same, strong objection may be taken to the nature of the proposals made. At any rate, Government should be particularly on its guard not to come to a final decision on this question after consulting only people who lack all real sympathy with the people and knowledge of their condition.

13. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 14th December is glad that His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser has taken in hand the reform of the chaukidari system in Bengal. The details of

The proposed chaukidari reform.

PALLIVASI,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

the scheme, as settled by Mr. Savage and as published by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, appear to be excellent. The writer suggests that the panchayets should be given Small Cause Court powers. Such an arrangement will save the people from harassment at the Civil Courts. In the selection of the best men for appointment as panchayets, the system of taking votes does not appear to be suitable. The panchayets should also be given the same powers as are enjoyed by Municipalities in looking to the condition of the village roads. It is to be hoped that these suggestions will commend themselves to Mr. Savage.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BASAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

14. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th December writes :—

Police high-handedness.

Police oppression has become a terrible blot on the British administration of India. Lord Curzon only stated the fact when he said that the reform of the police was an urgent necessity. All are agreed about the necessity of reform, but the particular measures of reform which will find favour with Government are yet unknown to the public. It yet remains to be seen whether the new rules and arrangements will not increase instead of decreasing police influence and misrule. It is a fact that all over the country the police are committing an intolerable oppression. Not to speak of the mufassal, the exhibitions of police high-handedness even in the metropolis before the very nose of the Viceroy, so to speak, are of such a nature that, had they occurred in any other country, the police and the citizens would constantly have been at loggerheads with each other. Take, for example, the following incident in connection with Lord Curzon's entry into Calcutta on the 12th December last. About two hundred students from different schools and colleges had assembled on the road-side on this occasion. Many of them were sons of people of position, and they carried flags in their hands. The simple inscription on these flags "Pray do not divide Bengal" gave expression to their deep feeling of distress about the partition question. The police, as soon as they saw these flags, acting under instructions from a superior European Inspector, snatched them away from the hands of the students by force, and attempted to find out the person who had given the students this idea, but they did not succeed in fastening the responsibility on any particular individual. One fails to understand how this carrying of flags by the students could constitute such a serious offence against law or order that the police thought themselves justified in behaving in such an offensive manner towards them. This instance of police oppression should be brought to the notice of Lord Curzon. The affair may in itself be a small one, but it is the cumulative effect of small incidents like these which results in creating a feeling of deep bitterness in the public mind.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

15. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 17th December notices one or

The police and Lord Curzon's
entry into Calcutta.

two incidents in connection with Lord Curzon's entry into Calcutta. One was that a number of men were found cleaning the shoes of the native sepoys who lined the route taken by His Excellency, and the other was the seizing of the placards exhibited by some Bengali students on which the words "Do not divide Bengal" were printed. It is observed that the people have thoroughly known Lord Curzon and do not expect much from him, but still His Excellency has opportunities for doing good to the people if he be so inclined.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

16. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December asks who

The students' placards in
Calcutta.

counselled the students to exhibit placards containing the words "Please do not divide Bengal" on the road taken by Lord Curzon on his way to Government House, and questions the necessity of such exhibition.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

17. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 14th December notices the

A complaint against the Subdivi-
sional Officer of Ghatal in Midna-
pore.

following allegation against Moulvie Ahmed, M.A., Subdivisional Officer of Ghatal in Midnapore. It appears that this officer is exerting himself to establish a local memorial to the late Pandit Vidya-sagar. To collect the necessary subscriptions he is said to have adopted the

two following objectionable methods: (1) the *chaukidari* panchayets have been ordered to collect two annas for each plough from the villagers; (2) when complaints which have been filed in his Court are afterwards intended to be compromised out of Court, the complainant is made to pay his contribution to the "Vidyasagar Memorial Fund" before he is granted permission by the Court to withdraw the charge he has preferred.

18. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th December says that Mr. Martin, the present Deputy Magistrate of Dumka, during his stay of 12 or 13 years at that place, has formed questionable intimacy with some people and lived on bad terms with others. He had a Santhal woman for his mistress, by whom he has got several children. He finds himself obliged to interfere directly or indirectly in all litigation in which the relations of that woman are interested. Persons who formerly incurred his displeasure are now in constant dread of persecution at his hands: some of them have already been punished. The attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI.
Dec. 16th, 1904.

19. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th December points out that the opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has brought about the influx of a large number of Europeans into Bankura. Cases against these railway employes are getting more and more frequent, but as European offenders may be tried only by a "Justice of the Peace," and as neither the present District Magistrate of Bankura (Mr. Gupta) nor the District Judge (Mr. Sen) is a "Justice of the Peace," such cases have at present to be sent for trial all the distance to Midnapore. The complainants and witnesses are in most of these cases ignorant coolies, to whom the mere suggestion of having to go to a different district is alarming. It is suggested as a remedy for this inconvenience that Messrs. Sen and Gupta should be appointed "Justices of the Peace" by Government.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 16th, 1904.

20. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th December notices certain allegations against Haji Shekh Mahomed Yasin, an Honorary Magistrate of Buxar. It appears that the Haji was originally a *fakir* and does not now possess a single *chatak* of land. In spite of his inferior social status he has somehow managed to get into the good graces of Mr. Lucy, the local Sub-divisional Officer, who nominated him to his present position. Certain members of the local public recently petitioned Government against the Haji in the following terms:—"He always wishes to cheat the public as a *fakir* and secondly as an officer. Thus he always wishes to throw dust in the eyes of the public and harass the ignorant people by his magisterial powers." Government, acting on this petition, ordered an inquiry by Mr. Lucy, who sent in a report in favour of the Haji without examining any of the petitioners. It is maintained that a fresh inquiry by Government is necessary, as Mr. Lucy is well known to be unduly partial to the Haji.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 18th, 1904.

(d)—Education.

21. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 15th December strongly objects to the recent proposal of requiring students of each college to live together in a separate hostel. Students reading in different colleges live in hostels with their brothers, relatives and other friends. If the proposed rules be enforced they will be greatly inconvenienced. The authorities should give up the proposal.

JYOTI,
Dec. 15th, 1904.

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th December criticises the recent Government Resolution on the Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1903-1904. Attention is first drawn to the need of improving the guru-training schools. These schools are, in many cases, still without teachers qualified to teach under the new methods, as also, in some cases, without *bona fide* students for want of sufficient encouragement in the shape of scholarships.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 15th, 1904.

Government is thanked for its efforts at the extension of female education, and it is remarked that such efforts, through now very feeble, are sure to lead to good results if steadily persevered in.

As regards the scheme for establishing schools for imparting instruction on the best and latest methods in cotton, silk and wool weaving, combined with a general education up to the primary standard and teaching in drawing and designing (referred to in paragraph 15 of the Resolution under review), the paper observes that it does not know how adequately to express its thanks to Government for this proposal. It also concurs in the advisability of combining general education with special training, as suggested in the official scheme.

Referring to the scheme for establishing a curriculum of mining instruction at the Sibpur Engineering College (see paragraph 16 of the Resolution), the paper expresses its pleasure at the announcement.

Turning to the question of Musalman education, it is suggested that as the mother-tongue of the Musalmans of this province is Bengali, it is desirable that the medium of instruction in their case should be Bengali rather than Urdu. If they do not acquire sufficient proficiency in Bengali they will have to live like foreigners in their own country and will only feel at home in the Upper Provinces. All the same, however, instruction, in whatever language imparted, is sure to prove beneficial.

Attention is drawn to the statement in paragraph 12 of the Resolution regarding the decrease in the number of middle vernacular schools, and the fear is expressed that the process of decay will be a steady one, and that five or six years hence, middle vernacular schools will have completely ceased to exist.

Finally, with regard to Mr. Pedler's statement that the high percentage of failures at the Entrance Examination is due to the candidates sent up being insufficiently prepared, it is pointed out that there is a difficulty about the acceptance of this statement. For while the results of the Entrance Examination are very bad, and that of the B. A. worse still, the results of the F. A., which is intermediate between these two, are comparatively good.

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

23. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 17th December quotes the *Indian People*,

Higher education and the Bengali Babus.

which in criticising Sir Andrew Fraser's statement that the Local Government is giving its attention to the remodelling of private schools and colleges, says

it had already foreseen all this from the reorganization of the Universities and that its fears have now been realized. The *Pioneer* also informs us that the new Universities Act is being enforced by all the Governments. No one can say what the consequences of this agitation would be. So far we have seen the result of the hue and cry raised by the Bengali Babus, and now we have to see what follows next.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

24. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th December points out that the

The last day of the next Entrance Examination.

last day of the next Entrance Examination, namely, the 4th March 1905, is the *Sivaratri* day, on which

Hindus are enjoined to observe strict fast and perform religious rites. It is to be hoped that the authorities will rectify the mistake by changing the date.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

25. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December says that

Date of the ensuing Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University.

the 4th March 1905, which is the last day of the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, falls on the *Sivaratri* festival day, on which the majority of Hindus keep fast. It would be

very hard for Hindu candidates to undergo the examination on that day. The higher educational authorities should be pleased to alter the date for that examination to some other day, as they have already done in the case of the F. A. and B. A. examinations in deference to the Muhammadan festival of the *Muharram*.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

JASOHAR,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

26. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 14th December complains of water-

A complaint of water-scarcity in a Jessore village.

scarcity in the village of Gadkhali in Jessore. Such sources as exist at present are polluted by the steeping of jute. The effect has been an outbreak of

dysentery in the village, causing about 15 deaths in the course of the last month. Malaria also is rife. Further, the neighbouring village of Kanarail is suffering from an epidemic of cholera.

27. The same paper insists that, in view of the present prevalence of the malaria epidemic in the locality, the Jessore charitable dispensary staff requires strengthening by one or two extra Assistant Surgeons. Complaint is also made that all the medicines prescribed by the doctor-in-charge are not always available at the dispensary.

JASOHAR.

The Jessore charitable dispensary.

28. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th December remarks that while the recent relaxation of the plague rules is commendable so far it goes, the public cannot expect much good unless the officers of the Health Department do their duties in regard to the measures of prevention. The public have a right to know how far attention is being paid to the cleansing of the streets and lanes, and what steps the Municipality has yet taken for the destruction of plague germs in those particular spots over the town which are known to be specially the centres where the plague makes its first appearance every year, and whence the disease afterwards spreads. It has been scientifically proved that plague bacilli, although they may appear at any one time to be without life, remain still capable of immense mischief at other times. So it behoves the Municipality to be specially careful.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

The Plague and the Calcutta Municipality.

29. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th December complains that the District Magistrate, though he was informed of the irregularities in the North Dum-Dum Municipality, did not personally enquire into them. The overseer, who is a protégé of the Chairman, does his work most perfunctorily. Every year a sum of Rs. 720 is spent for the wages of seven coolies, but it is well known that the coolies do the private work of the Chairman during the best part of the year. The overseer also does the private work of his patron, the Chairman. This is how the money of the rate-payers is misspent.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 16th, 1904.

Alleged irregularities in the North Dum-Dum Municipality.

30. Continuing the subject of the alleged mismanagement of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Bhawanipur, Calcutta [noticed in paragraph 25 of the Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 10th December 1904], the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th December observes that the agitation which has been carried on in its columns on this topic has borne fruit partially, and the hospital patients are now being taken better care of. Dr. Hazra has been trying to get up an application in his favour made to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, but it appears that certain respectable practitioners like Bahus Bihari Lal Bose and Giris Chandra De could not be got to sign it in spite of all the influence brought to bear on them. Dr. Brown seems to have sent in a report to the authorities declaring that all the agitation in the columns of this paper was inspired by malice. This is evading the real point at issue, which is the truth or otherwise of the allegations made, and not the motive which inspired them. The fact is that Dr. Brown has a personal interest in supporting Dr. Hazra, as has been pointed out previously. So no enquiry made by him alone can ever be deemed sufficient. If evidence of this partiality were needed, it would be found in his letters of thanks to the *Pratijna* for supporting Dr. Hazra and also in his demi-official threatening to this paper for daring to expose his subordinate's misdeeds. As regards the question of private practice by Dr. Hazra, attempts have been made to show that one or two of the particular cases where he was alleged to have so undertaken private practice are wrong. But this does not touch the truth of the general allegation. Further, as evidence of the care with which these allegations were made, it is claimed that even in the one or two specific cases referred to just now, the statements made in this paper are true, and that Dr. Hazra's attempts to prove them false have failed.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 16th, 1904.

The Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Bhawanipur, Calcutta.

(9).—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

31. The *Santi* [Madaripur] of the 30th November and the 15th December publishes the following complaints by a correspondent against one Surendranath Das, a toll-collector at Jalirpara khal, in the Faridpur district :—

Alleged oppressions by a toll-collector in the Faridpur district.

Surendranath Das has made himself notorious by his cruel oppressions upon boatmen plying their boats near the toll office. The Namasudras of Jalirpara

SANTI,
Nov. 30th, and
Dec. 15th, 1904.

and Kaligram have been the worst sufferers. The correspondent saw a *manjhi* named Rajani Nath Baroi, an inhabitant of Baraihat village in Faridpur, mercilessly beaten by the toll-collector's men. The man who beat him most severely was named Jogendranath Das. The inhabitants of Kaligram said that the toll-collector insulted Harihar Sarkar of Durgapur on the last *Kalipuja* day, beat Purna Chandra Bala of Kaligram, illegally exacted money from the *manjhis* of Kaligram, sold grass growing on the banks of the *khal* and appropriated the money and realised about Rs. 10 as *salami* from each of the persons whom he allowed to grow crops on the land bordering on the *khal*.

BANZI,
Nov. 30th and
Dec. 15th, 1904.

32. The same paper draws attention to the persistent disregard of the complaints of its native passengers on the part of the Madaripur Steamer Company and the indescribable sufferings of such passengers, and says that Mr.

Havelock, the present Agent of the Steamer Company, is quite a young man who is deaf to all complaints. The writer quoted *in extenso* the letters on this subject published in the *Bengalee* and the *Indian Mirror* newspapers.

BOLTAU,
Dec. 16th, 1904.

33. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 16th December draws attention to certain inconveniences to passengers on the steamers of the I. G. S. Company's Eastern and Central Bengal Service. It is pointed out that in the first place there is no accommodation provided corresponding to the second class carriages on the railway lines. Further, it is desirable that the third class accommodation for females should possess some arrangements for preserving privacy, by means of *pardahs* for example, as in the case of intermediate class accommodation. Then again the fare for the intermediate class is quite double that for the third class, although on railway lines the one is only one and-a-half-times that of the other. Lastly, as regards the question of latrine accommodation for females, it is pointed out that under the existing arrangements the latrines are situated on the lower deck, and that the space in front of them is much frequented by male passengers and the steamer crew. The effect is that female passengers if they wish to use the latrine have to make their way from the upper deck down the stairs through a large number of males. This they naturally dislike doing. The difficulty might be got over by arranging to have the female accommodation on the lower deck near the latrines.

The same paper also complains that the existing practice of having a number of latrines side by side without properly screening them off from each other, which is adopted on most of the steamer lines, is repugnant to Indian ideas of decency and does not permit of all the latrines being made use of at one and the same time. It is pointed out that the difficulty might be got over without any very great expense by simply making the existing iron partition walls a little higher and putting on a door before each seat.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

34. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December complains that he was subjected to extortion on the 4th December last by the booking-clerk at Bargachi station on the Howrah-Amta Light Railway. It is alleged that this booking-clerk refused to issue a ticket to him for a goat which he intended to take with him until he agreed to pay an anna over the regular tariff charge of eight annas.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 20th, 1904.

35. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th December says that it is no evidence of good sense and a desire for securing the convenience of the travelling public on the part of the authorities of the East Indian Railway that one and only one down passenger train should touch at such an important station as Baidyanath Junction during the whole day. Passengers from Baidyanath failing to catch the 8 A.M. down passenger train must wait till 9 at night. Again, it is to be regretted that not a single down mail train should stop at that junction station. There can be no valid objection to the stopping of the Down Bombay Mail for a few minutes there. It is to be hoped that the authorities will take this matter into their serious consideration.

KRISHNANAGAR,
Dec. 21st, 1904.

36. The *Krishnanagar* [Krishnagar] of the 21st December observes that the construction of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad State Railway was at first pushed forward with great energy, but the rate of progress appears to be slackening with the lapse of time. The reason appears to be that the rates

of compensation for earth-work have been fixed so low that the contractors are gradually coming to find that they have been working at a loss and they therefore naturally hesitate to undertake further contracts. It is bad economy to pay a coolie five pice instead of six, when by the difference of an extra pice, the completion of the whole work may be expedited. For, all the time that the works are under construction a highly-paid supervising establishment of Engineers has to be retained. What is gained in the coolie's wages is therefore more than lost in the establishment charges. The Engineers have a personal interest in prolonging the time of construction, and the direct interference of Government is necessary in this case if the public interests are to be consulted.

(h)—General.

37. Referring to the question of the selection of a suitable sadar station for the new district which it is proposed to create out of the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions of the district of Mymensingh, the *Charu Mihir*

Sadar station for the new district in Mymensingh.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 13th, 1904.

[Mymensingh] of the 13th December writes:—

In our previous issue we pointed out the disadvantages of Jamalpur as the new sadar station. [See Paragraph 49 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 17th December 1904.]

In the same issue we suggested what in our opinion was the best choice for the location of the new sadar station. This was the site comprising the villages of Ihopua, Mutsuddi, Bhabanipur, Saya, Ipsiarpur, etc. [See the same paragraph of the same report.] The following are the recommendations of this site:—

- (1) The villages above named cover a field extending about three or four miles, so that there will be plenty of ground for the new town to be built upon.
- (2) The land is elevated.
- (3) The rivers Bairan and Atai flow on two sides of this site. The Bairan, it is true, dries up in the months of *Falgun* and *Chait*, but the Atai is a perennial stream. So there can be no difficulty about water-supply at this place. The water of the Atai is pure and quite fit for drinking purposes.
- (4) The place is free from malaria.
- (5) It is situated almost in the centre of the area comprised by the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions.
- (6) The natural scenery of the place is very pleasing.
- (7) It is distant from the Jamuna by about eight or nine miles only.
- (8) From the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th October last, it appears that it is intended to extend the present railway line from Sarisabari station southward to Khagchara village near Sealkhole along the eastern bank of the Jamuna. This projected extension will pass through the villages of Goalbathan and Natherpara. And these two villages are situated in close proximity to Saya, Ipsiarpur and the other villages above mentioned. So that it appears that our proposed site will soon possess railway communication with the outside world.

The site we have indicated thus appears to be in every way suitable. We request our Magistrate, Mr. Thomson, to pay a personal visit of inspection to the spot. We are sure he would be charmed with it.

38. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 14th December writes:—

Alleged prohibition of Mecca pilgrimage.

On the 10th December last it was proclaimed by beat of drum in this town that no pilgrimage to Mecca would be permitted this year, that intending pilgrims must wait till the next year, and that such was the order of Government. In view of the special sanctity of Mecca, there is no doubt that any order of Government, prohibiting pilgrimage to such a place, will deeply wound Musalman feeling.

MURSHIDABAD
HATAISHI,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

39. Referring to the opinion expressed by the recent conference of Commissioners at Darjeeling that the present size of Midnapore district is unwieldy, and that it is incapable of being well administered by a single Magistrate-Collector, the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 14th December remarks that this opinion does not seem to be borne out by an examination of the past history of the question. It is pointed out that in 1872 certain re-adjustments of jurisdiction were carried out whereby the two thanas of Barada and Chandrakona in Hooghly were added to Midnapore, and the Jellasore subdivision of Midnapore was transferred to Balasore. From this it is evident that the officials of those days did not regard Midnapore as unwieldy, for if they did, they would not have agreed to add two new thanas to it. The district then was acknowledged to be well administered by a single Magistrate. In fact until 1875 no complaint of any administrative inconvenience was uttered by any official. It was in 1876 that Sir R. Temple first represented to Government his opinion that the charge of Midnapore was too heavy for one officer. The same cry has since then been repeated on various occasions, and the present proposals seem only to be the outcome of these repeated expressions of opinion.

No complaint of inefficient administration has been preferred against any one of the several Magistrates who have held charge of Midnapore since 1876. In fact many of these Magistrates rose later to the highest positions in the service. During all the time from that year to the present, there has been no serious occurrence in the district which can be attributed to lack of proper supervision by the Magistrate. The Ghatal riots, the murder of the daroga at Nandigram, and the dacoities at Naraingurh—these do not prove lack of control on the part of the District Magistrate; they were simply brought about by the machinations of the subordinate officials. Moreover, these occurrences, such as they are, can never be said to be very frequent. Further, the proximity of the Magistrate is no bar to the occurrence of such breaches of the peace, as is proved by the recent outbreak of thefts and dacoities in the Naraingurh and Khargpur thanas.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 21st, 1904.

40. Referring to the proposed partition of the Midnapore district, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st December asks: Will Government give ear to the protests of the zamindars and other people of the district against the proposal? It is quite against the policy of Lord Curzon to listen to what the people may have to say. Government appears to care more for its own conveniences than for those of the people. How is it that there are so many partition schemes nowadays? Why should the work which formerly used to be satisfactorily performed by one man now require two for its proper performance? The salaries and allowances of officers, as compared with what were received by them formerly, have now increased. Why then should they be so neglectful of their duties? Is it the outcome of the mad enthusiasm of Imperialism, or has the indolence begotten of fat salaries and of the enjoyment of immense ease and comfort by the *huzurs* abnormally increased? Have the authorities taken to this fad only to provide means of livelihood to their kith and kin?

If a district be divided into two parts, there would be two Collectors and two District Superintendents of Police instead of one Collector and one District Superintendent. A few natives would no doubt get some petty appointments, thereby affording an opportunity to the authorities of pleasing the educated men of the country and keeping them quiet. But the burden of taxation on the people would in that case be too heavy and the tie of affection and sympathy would be severed. So the people are compelled to protest against schemes of partition, although these may be well calculated to satisfy the political purposes of the alien rulers. But all the protests of the people must be unavailing, and the will of the Government is sure to be carried out.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

41. Referring to the recent creation of the new subdivision of Balurghat in the district of Dinajpur, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th December remarks that the creation of a new subdivision means the creation of a new town, and as such may be regarded by many people as tending to benefit the country.

But it is pointed out that it also offers an increased facility for litigation and leads to increased expenditure. As regards the advantages, there is not much hope that the establishment of a new subdivision will bring about any serious diminution in the number of local thefts and dacoities. So on the whole this increasing of subdivisions does not seem to be very desirable.

42. In noticing the recent incident about the display of flags by a number of students referring to the Partition question on the occasion of Lord Curzon's entry into

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 15th, 1904.

The Partition question.
Calcutta on the 12th December last, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th December writes : —

Lord Curzon returns to India chastened in spirit by the evidence of God's mercy he has found in the recovery of his wife from a serious illness. The students of Calcutta intended to take advantage of the occasion and appeal to the Viceroy in his present frame of mind. Moreover, under British rule, the subjects have a right of representing their grievance to their rulers. There is not nor can there be any law requiring that as regards Government measures the subjects shall only utter words of approval and never of dissent. Of course in Russia a different system prevails. There the subjects cannot approach the Government with their complaints, and the liberty of the press is fettered. But for this reason Russia is looked down upon by the whole world.

We have now to ask our rulers if they intend to extend the Russian system to Bengal. A number of students, all of them sons of respectable people, who were deeply pained by the Partition proposals, thought the occasion of Lord Curzon's entry into Calcutta an auspicious one to inform His Excellency of their feelings in a peaceful manner. But the police interfered. They had no right to do so. The particular Inspector under whose orders the thing was done deserves punishment at the hands of Government.

The people of Bengal make a united appeal to Lord Curzon for mercy. The Partition proposals have created a feeling of intense alarm among them. That feeling is due to the well-grounded prospects of racial disunion and social disorder which are sure to follow the Partition. Let him save the people at this crisis. He has himself recently received a proof of God's kindness towards him. Let him take advantage of this auspicious moment to bring similar comfort to the hearts of the Bengali people.

43. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 15th December heartily thanks the Government of India for the generous sympathy shewn to the Indians in exempting incomes below Rs. 1,000 from the income-tax. The Government

JYOTI,
Dec. 15th, 1904.

Oppressions in the income-tax assessments.

of India has noticed the oppressions which have been committed by the income-tax assessors and other officers upon persons whose incomes vary from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250 by over-assessments and has drawn the attention of the Provincial Governments to the *zulm*. But such oppressions had been far worse before the present concession was granted. Not only in the Income-tax Department, but in many other Departments in which a re-assessment of taxes is made, as for example after the last Survey operations in Chittagong, the raiyats were almost ruined, and in Government Khas Mahals and in Forest Departments great oppressions prevail. The responsibility lies, not so much on the officers who commit those oppressions, as on those higher officers who give promotions to those officers. As long as the system under which officers showing the largest percentage of collections are promoted will remain in force, so long the poor will continue to groan under oppressions.

44. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th December writes : —

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 15th, 1904.

Lord Ampthill.

Lord Ampthill goes away after having charmed the whole country by his urbanity. On the occasion of his late visit to Kashmir, he so arranged that people could approach him personally with their petitions, if they had any. It is the practice of the police to warn people off the Governor-General's person when he is out on tours of inspection, but Lord Ampthill's orders were that the police were not to use force to prevent anybody from bringing his complaint direct to His Excellency's ears. Such generous-minded Governors-General are indeed rare in this country.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 16th, 1904.

45. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th December is extremely sorry to bid farewell to His Excellency Lord Ampthill. During the short period he officiated as Viceroy, he endeared himself to all classes of people by his benign rule and gave them that respite which they so badly needed.

HITAVADI.

46. The same paper is afraid that if the present policy of appointing under graduates as Sub-Deputy Collectors be persisted in, the effect will be to impair the efficiency of the staff employed in higher Government posts, by excluding educated Indians from them. Sir Andrew Fraser has done a great injustice to the educated youth of this country by introducing this system at the desire of Lord Curzon. His Honour dislikes criticism, but will he explain for what noble object the new system has been introduced?

47. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 17th December makes the following allegation against one Umesh Chandra Bhuiyan, a postal overseer at Mohisrakha post office in Howrah. It appears that this Bhuiyan was formerly a peon on Rs. 8 per mensem, but has since risen to be an overseer on Rs. 15 through the mysterious influence of "fine rice, *ghce* and *jaol* fish." When he goes out marketing he takes with him one or two unpaid *harkaras* (peons), and if any of these is found disobedient he is immediately reported against. The local Inspector is completely under the thumb of this Umesh, so the result of such reports is always a foregone conclusion. It is said that Umesh had been under orders of transfer on two or three occasions, but that Ambika Babu used his influence to get the orders cancelled on each occasion. The Postal Department must be blind indeed to permit such give-and-take arrangements to continue.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

Insufficiency of ministerial officers in the Patna Commissioner's office.

48. According to the *Bihar Herald*, says *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 17th December, the ministerial officers of the office of the Commissioner of the Patna Division are made to attend office even during holidays. If the work of that office is really too heavy for the existing staff, the Commissioner of Patna should employ some extra hands to do it, in order to afford relief to those poor fellows at least on holidays.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

The Campbell Medical Hospital scandal.

49. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December notices the difference that arose a few months ago between the students of the Campbell Medical School and the Deputy Superintendent of that institution, with the result that one and all had ceased attending school for a time and also the fact that in the middle of April last all the hospital nurses resigned their posts, to the great inconvenience of the indoor patients of that hospital. It has now transpired that the students had struck work because of their not being satisfied with the treatment which they received at the hands of the Deputy Superintendent. This officer, it is said, has been lately removed from his present office, but the paper does not consider the removal as a sufficient punishment for such conduct, and requests the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals to make a searching inquiry regarding the conduct of that officer.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

50. By passing the new Act regulating the sale of land by local cultivators the Punjab Government, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 17th December, thought that it rescued the cultivating classes from the oppression of the money-lenders. But it has done no good to that class. On the other hand, the mahajans, seeing that they were not going to be helped by the Courts in recovering their dues from the cultivators, ceased to have any dealings with them. In the meantime Civil Courts have reported a great falling off in the number of suits instituted by money-lenders against the raiyats. The *Pioneer* on this remarks that it should not be supposed that this falling off is due to the better condition of the cultivating classes in the Punjab, but that the mahajans, expecting no justice from law Courts, have ceased to resort to them.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS

51. The *Pabna Hitaishi* [Pabna] of the 14th December writes:—

The Indian National Congress.

We support the Congress on principle. But we do not favour its present methods of purposeless and tame agitation. Meeting together for only three days in the year, there to shed mock tears over the country's misfortunes is not the way to do any real good. Our suggestion to the leaders of the Congress is that they should try to attract the sympathy and support of the masses, and arrange to continue the agitation unceasingly throughout the course of the whole year. Then only can the Congress be said to have become useful to the country.

Our objections to the present methods of conducting the Congress are (1) that under them the Congress is a sort of thing foreign to the country and to the masses; (2) that the country gets no adequate return for the vast waste of money which goes on during its three days' sittings; (3) that its efforts are aimless. The supporters of the Congress claim that they seek their country's good. But amid the perplexities of the situation created by the clashing of the East with the West, we do not get any clear light from the Congress leaders as to the particular attitude which the interests of the country demand that it should take up on any particular question.

52. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

Lord Curzon's Bombay speech.

14th December criticises in the following terms the recent speech delivered by Lord Curzon in reply to the address of welcome from the Bombay Corporation:—

Lord Curzon indicates by almost every word in this speech, whether directly or indirectly, that mercy and justice are the guiding rules of conduct with those charged with the government of India, and that their mission in life is to seek to promote the welfare of their country. Of course this is not the first time that we hear such declarations from the lips of our rulers. Such godly sentiments have been repeatedly expressed in the same manner by different officials. It is for this reason that the author of "John Bull and his Island" expressly writes that England in the government of her dependencies is always guided only by considerations of the welfare of the country governed and never by self-interest or any sort of mean motive. Lord Curzon had no need of giving expression to the same ideas once again. For this noble policy of the British Government is not a thing unknown to us. The one reason for keeping up the connection of England with India is pure mercy on the part of the English towards the inoffensive Indians! If the English were to abandon India to-day, before another day dawns, India would be beset with plague, famine, poverty and a hundred other evils; and Russia and Afghanistan would disturb her internal peace. It is only the thought of these prospective dangers that induces the English to come to India from their distant home and take upon themselves the grievous burden of the defence of the Indian frontier. There is absolutely nothing "selfish, sordid or materialistic" in all this. The object may indeed be all that is noble and honest. But it is regrettable that the means adopted for carrying out this object are generally looked upon by the Indians as directed to other ends, and what is more regrettable still is that in practice also these means sometimes turn out to be mischievous. The reform of the police leading to a larger waste of the poor Indian's money; frontier defence leading to an oppressive increase of the military expenditure; administrative reform resulting in the suppression of the natural and organic development of the country;—all these are living examples where the results have turned out to be different from those which might be expected from the motives assigned. The results of reform on the lines now in favour with Government are not exactly desirable from the point of view of the country's interests. Who can say that in the future they will not be still more disagreeable? It is under circumstances similar to these, that the prayer "save me from my friends" is usually uttered.

53. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th December has the following:—

Lord Curzon's Bombay speech.

"I pray the native community in India," said Lord Curzon in his Bombay speech, "to believe in the good faith, in the high honour, and in the upright purpose of my countrymen." If indeed the British public knew our real condition, then for us there would be hope of improvement. But alas! such is our misfortune that everything is going against us. The manner in which Indian

PABNA HITAIISHI,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR P. TRIKA,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

H. TAVADI
Dec. 16th, 1904.

matters are being discussed in England through the instrumentality of Lord Curzon and his favourite paper, the *London Times*, cannot fail to do more harm than good to this country. How, then, can we derive consolation from the words of Lord Curzon which are so pleasing to the ear?

As to the proposed reform of the police, upon which His Excellency laid such stress, we must say that, from what we have seen of his educational reform and the existing tendency towards favouring Europeans in the Police Department, we are rather discouraged than encouraged at the prospect. There is nothing to indicate that the views of the people on the matter will at all be consulted. It is scarcely possible that any changes will be made in the scheme out of deference to their views after it has received the sanction of the Secretary of State. His Excellency said that the findings of the Irrigation Commission would be given effect to. But the mere excavation of a few canals will not prevent famines. If His Excellency had reduced the land revenue instead, the results might have been satisfactory. Lord Curzon thinks he has conferred a great benefit on the country by creating the new Department of Commerce and Industry, but we are unable to appreciate the utility of the measure as regards frontier affairs. His Excellency has the reputation of being versed in Asiatic politics, and it is therefore quite natural on his part to endeavour to make a name for himself by doing something new in this direction.

However strongly the Indians may protest against his proposals, His Excellency is certain to win tremendous applause in England. As regards the Viceroy's reference to the Imperial Service Troops and other questions affecting the Native States, very little remains to be said. What pains us is the really deplorable condition of the Native Princes. It is a pity that no mention should have been made in his speech of the question of the separation of the Executive and Judicial functions, while His Excellency is determined to carry out the partition of Bengal, although the people are crying themselves hoarse against it. He completely ignores that much-needed reform for which the Indians have been agitating for a considerable period. Does this indicate his desire to make the people happy?

We are sincerely sorry at the severe trials through which His Excellency had to pass during his stay in England. But is there anything which can make us rejoice at his return? We could not bid His Excellency farewell with tears in our eyes, nor can we now welcome him with a smiling face. This is due to no fault of his but to our sheer misfortune. We implore His Excellency with joined hands to cast a glance of pity on the people of Bengal. O Lord, you have employed various means to drain the resources of this country, you have snatched away many of our rights and privileges and have barred the way to our future progress. Desist from your purpose even now, and spare the national existence of the Bengalis by abandoning the partition scheme. The people of Bengal were awaiting your return to India with a terror-stricken heart. Do you remove the apprehensions by proclaiming their deliverance.

1 INDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

54. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December criticises the speech of Lord Curzon at Bombay in the following terms:—

Lord Curzon at Bombay.

In your Bombay speech Your Excellency said that your principal duty was to work for India. Almost all Government officers, Native and European, are duty bound. The Indian Viceroys also are duty bound. Do what you think to be your duty, but do it very carefully in this diversified land of India. Carry out the police reform. Remove the stigma that lies on the police (of being corrupt, etc.) and relieve the people of the fear in which they stand. It is needless to recount what you did in the past, but whatever you left unfinished and whatever you intend to do anew please do it but for the good of the Indians. The first item of our prayer is police reform. Please publish the report of the Police Commission so that the public may express their views on it. Strengthen the frontier even at an increased expenditure. If you are in need of strengthening your relation with the Amir with a view to baffling Russia's plan of invading India, please do it. You are the fit person to do all these and we have no objection. We want only peace and your confidence in us. We want to observe our religious rites and customs, to have food when hungry and water when thirsty. Let us have these things and we shall remain quite contented. God will be pleased with you and bless you.

55. Referring to the resumption of the office of Governor-General by Lord Curzon, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th December writes:—

The re-appointment of Lord Curzon.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 14th, 1904.

Let His Lordship accept our sincere and heartfelt sympathy. We pray to God for Lady Curzon's speedy and complete restoration to health, so that she may soon be able to rejoin her husband at Calcutta.

Lord Curzon owing to some of his public measures has not been able to secure any deep love from the people of this country. But the news of Lady Curzon's serious illness stirred a feeling of keen sympathy in every Indian heart. Millions of Indians sincerely prayed to God for her recovery. That heartfelt prayer of the Indian people has been heard, and God has been pleased to rescue Lady Curzon from the fell grasp of what seemed to be impending death. Their joy would indeed have been complete if they had been permitted to see her returning by her husband's side. But of course the full measure of happiness is not granted to mortals.

We see nothing to be anxious for at the re-appointment of Lord Curzon to the office of Viceroy. Suppose somebody else had come instead of Lord Curzon. Would that have made any difference in our fortunes? England will govern India with an eye to her own convenience and interests. Whoever may happen to be the ruler for the time being, India's convenience will always be determined by what tends to promote the convenience, profit, and prestige of England. It should be remembered that it is self-interest which rules the world and not disinterested love.

Lord Curzon has returned; he is welcome; and we bid him welcome with all the reverence which a representative of the King-Emperor is entitled to. We only take this occasion to approach him with one prayer, and that is that he should refrain from wounding the people's feelings by disregarding their respectful petitions which only give expression to their deep feelings of distress. The people of India are utterly inoffensive and helpless, and they have always been loyal and obedient. Under such circumstances, if Lord Curzon could avoid wounding their feelings, he would earn their profound gratitude. Is that not something for him to aspire to?

56. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th December has the following:—

Welcome to Lord Curzon.

You are come at last, you who are the Viceroy of India! Come, let us have a look at you—let us accord you a hearty welcome. The liveliness which we noticed in you, when your Excellency first came to this country, we miss on the present occasion. You seem to have considerably aged and look pale. This time you have not your life's partner with you. It was Her Excellency's illness which lately cast a gloom over your countenance and which you have not been able to shake off yet. The goddess Sankari saved Your Excellency from that danger, otherwise who knows what would have happened? May the same goddess speed you who has saved the life of Lady Curzon.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

We equally share with Your Excellency the gratification and comfort which you felt in finding Lady Curzon restored to health when you started for India. All classes in India prayed to the Most High for your welfare. It is true all your actions and schemes during the first part of your administration did not receive the approbation of all classes. It was impossible that they should in a country full of such diversities of race, religion, manners and customs. But though differing with you in many matters, all persons sympathised with you in your late distress. In your Bombay speech, Your Excellency frankly confessed your appreciation of this by referring to the "warmth of heart in India." Never perhaps did your heart rise to such a pitch of animation as when you thus gave expression to your feeling of gratitude. Though Lady Curzon is not now with you, yet you are not alone. Millions of Indians who regard you as their *ma bap* are now with you, expecting from you a glance of sympathy. Allow those to whom you appeared as the terrible one to have now the opportunity of witnessing your benign countenance. It is universally expected that this time Your Excellency's public measures will be such as to win the approbation of the Indians. It has now come to be believed that he who could so frankly express his gratitude to the Indians for their sympathy accorded in his hour of trial is incapable of giving pain to anybody.

As Your Excellency has said, the reform of the police is of vital importance. The report of the Police Commission should now be published, so that the public may have an opportunity of expressing their views upon it. It is immaterial whether a European or a Bengali is placed at the head of the police. All that we want is peace and good administration; and to see all

guilty police officers adequately punished. Our impression is that such officers are not adequately punished. Well-educated persons who care for truth should alone be employed in the police service, otherwise no improvement would be possible. Well has Your Excellency said that "the government of this dependency should be conducted with insight and sympathy, and that our guiding stars should be mercy and justice." Let this be proclaimed all over the land, and let these noble words be inscribed in letters of gold. Let no one impute bad motives to Government.

As Your Excellency has publicly declared, one of the main objects of your return to India is to further strengthen the frontiers. We can have nothing to say against that. What we want is peace and your confidence. See that we get food when hungry and water when thirsty, and that no violence is done to our religion and society.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 17th, 1904.

57. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 17th December has the following under the signature of Siv Sumbhu, a fictitious man addicted to the use of hemp:—

Lord Curzon.

My Lord, although you boast of being the only Englishman best acquainted with the affairs of India and its successful ruler, yet mind that you have not understood a whit about this country, and there is no hope that you would understand it in the few months that remain to you, although the country has thoroughly understood what you are. Although you say that India is not a country for words but deeds, the country has fully realized that your deeds are nothing but words.

There has been a very happy coincidence, viz., that both you and the people of this country are proud, but with this difference, that what you seem to be proud of appears simply ridiculous in the eyes of the people, and excites their laughter. As for what the people pride in, it is beyond your comprehension. The country has seen much pomp and show in the past, and any demonstration of them now is simply lost on her. You intend to build an iron wall across the frontier of India in consultation with Lord Kitchener. But a mightier wall than yours had been built by Lord Canning which has stood firm these forty-six years. This wall is no other than Her late Majesty's Proclamation of 1858.

That impregnable wall is the real defence work of India on which the Indians rely for their protection. It is needless for you or Lord Kitchener to erect any other wall. You could plan out any number of strong walls behind it if you have the mind. Show alone would not avail anything. The poverty-stricken people of this country cannot appreciate show. You thought you had done much for India, with the result that you had yourself to recount your doings on reaching England, for the simple reason that you are more prone to talk than to act.

My Lord, you are a perfect master at speech-giving, but India attaches quite a different value to too much talking. The *Mahabharata* mentions of Yudhishtir as one who meant what he said, but only once in his life he had occasion under a strong political necessity to attempt a slight lie, and that fact has been recorded and will remain as long as that work remains in this world. You may now compare your speeches with the above fact and then consider how you would be able to do your duty to the people of this country.

BHARAT MITRA.

58. The same paper after recounting the characteristics as described in Cotton's "New India" of a true representative of the Indian people, asks Sir Andrew Fraser, who spoke of forming friendships with the Indians, to say if His Honour has ever sought to find such a man.

Sir Andrew Fraser and the Indians.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 19th, 1904.

59. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th December, advertizing to the letter of Mr. Havell on the Sholapur weaver's relief scheme, sent by him to the Anglo-Indian papers, asks his countrymen in a long article to turn their attention to the improvement of cotton manufacture in this country by introducing the Japan machine among the weavers, who are at present in a deplorable condition and are fast disappearing for want of employment.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 24th December 1904.

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